

BALLARAT FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

EXCURSION / NEWS SHEET - MAY 1974

President: Mr. H. Hooper, Gracefield Road, Brown Hill.
Vice-President: Mr. R. Thomas, 23 Gillies Street, Alfredton.
Hon. Secretary: Mr. P. Fry, 19 Stawell Street, Ballarat.
Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. E. Bedggood, 809 Barkly Street, Ballarat.

FIRST NEWS SHEET:

The Club Committee has decided to issue a monthly sheet, similar to this and dealing with excursions and Club news. It will be made available free to members attending meetings and excursions. For any Club news and information to be included in the news sheet, please contact Mr. Fry or Mr. Thomas.

EXCURSION:

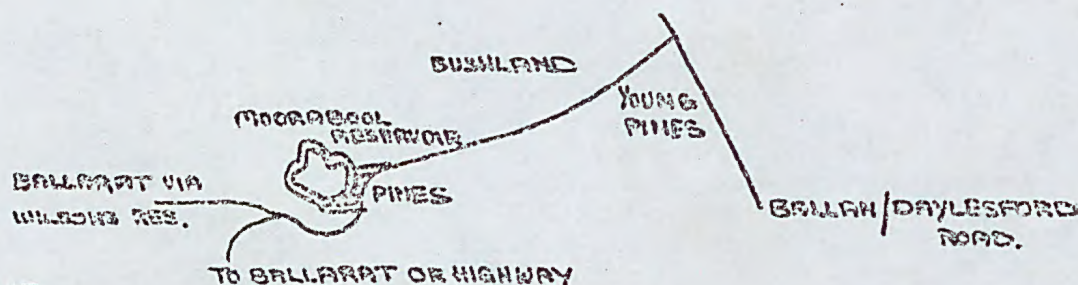
May 5th, 1974 - BOLWARRAH-SPARGO CREEK, AREA.

Depart from Crockers store in Armstrong Street at 1.30 p.m. Members are requested to be there 5 minutes before departure time to allot seating for those requiring transport.

Travel via Victoria and Water Streets and Gong Road to the pine plantations alongside the Moorabool Reservoir, Bolwarrah. We will make an inspection here of the birds and plants that occur in the pines and hope to be able to compile lists of the things we see.

The information we collect will be of value, as pines have become a controversial subject, especially as to the effect they have on the environment and wildlife. Birds known to occur in the area include Yellow Robin, Golden Whistler, Scrub-Wren, Thornbills, Blue Wrens and Mountain Thrush. Plants seen will be of lesser interest, being mainly weeds, but keep an eye out for others. Fungi should be common. Other stops will be made in natural forest a few miles further on, and a trip will be made through the extensive young pine plantations at Spargo Ck., west of the Korweinguboorra Reservoir.

ROUTE MAP:



TONIGHT:

We welcome back Mr. Roger Cowley to our meeting. A former Club member, Roger will speak to us on the activities of the Land Conservation Council.

CLUB FEES:

A decision will be made tonight on the matter of Club Fees. The present Club fees are: - Adult Member \$1.25; Joint Members - \$1.50. Junior \$25c.

BOSTOCK RESERVOIR EXCURSION:

On April 7th four cars braved the drizzle and members explored the area. Due to the season there was very little plant life in flower, but several species were listed. Both the Tiny Greenhood and Cranberry Heath were flowering, but not common. Other plants seen were: Thin-leaf Wattle (a prostrate species) which was very numerous, Honey-pots, Dwarf Bush-pea

and an interesting plant around the shore, believed to be some sort of everlasting. Twenty-two species of birds were listed, but several of these were heard only. They included Black Swan, Black Duck, White-eared Honey-eater, Restless Flycatcher, Yellow-tailed Thornbill, Whistling Eagle and Spotted Pardalote. Although the day was damp, members found much of interest and agreed that the area would be worth a visit in spring.

NEW MEMBER:

At our April meeting, Mr. Laurie Wright was welcomed as a member of our Club. We hope Mr. Wright enjoys the Club activities.

REPORT OUT:

The long-awaited report by the Land Conservation Council on the Melbourne Study Area has recently been published. The area covered includes part of the Wombat Forest and the Basalt area, near Daylesford. Our Club will be preparing a submission to the Council and anyone wishing to be involved in this matter is asked to contact Mr. Fry. The report, consisting of a text book and a book of maps, is available from the Land Conservation Council, 464 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne, 3004, and costs only \$3.00, including postage, and is recommended to members.

BIRD OBSERVERS AT LINTON:

At our last meeting a working bee was organised to take place on the property of Mr. Gordon Clarke at Linton, to prepare for a visit by the Bird Observers Club of Melbourne who had to suddenly change their Easter camp-out plans from the Little Desert to Linton. Seven workers turned up and managed to get quite a lot done in tidying up the area. Mr. Clarke was grateful to all who came, especially Mr. McKenzie with his chain saw and Edwin Bedggood, who spent the whole afternoon mowing grass. The camp was a success and the visitors explored Possum Gully, Mt. Erip Forest, Piggoreet and Happy Valley areas. Best birds were Brush Bronzewing, Dartie, Owlet-Nightjar, Spotted Quail-Thrush and Powerful Owl.

NATURAL HISTORY MEDALLION:

A Life Member of this Club, Mr. Jack Wheeler, has been nominated for the Natural History Medallion. Mr. Wheeler, a co-founder of this Club now lives at Geelong and has been nominated by the Geelong Field Nats. We wish him every success.

PUBLIC MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT:

On April 24th, some members of this Club attended a meeting organised by the Ballarat Environmental Action Group, on the effects of industry on the environment and other similar matters. About 150 people attended and heard the viewpoints of the various speakers, who included Dr. Curtain (a Commonwealth scientist), Mr. John Dick of the BEAG, and representatives of the Ballarat Sewerage Authority and McCains Pty. Ltd. There was also a considerable amount of discussion and questions by members of the public. A meeting with the Creswick Field Naturalists Club has recently been arranged to discuss matters of mutual interest and perhaps we should also arrange a similar meeting with interested members of the Ballarat Environment Action Group, which, after all, has several objects similar to those of our own Club.

SQUIRRELS

How long since you last saw a squirrel in Ballarat? Where was it? Mr. Thomas would like to hear of any sightings as it is thought that they may now be extinct here.